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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/758,832	01/11/2001	Joseph A. Horton	MCRVT-023C	8538

7590 12/16/2002

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EXAMINER

THALER, MICHAEL H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3731

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/758,832

Applicant(s)

Horton et al.

Examiner

Michael Thaler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 19, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 110 and 112-118 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 110 and 112-118 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Nov. 5, 2002 has been entered.

Claims 110 and 112-118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Massoud et al. ("Endovascular Treatment of Fusiform Aneurysms with Stents and Coils: Technical Feasibility in a Swine Model") in view of Balko et al. (4,512,338). Massoud et al., in the paragraph labeled "Aneurysm Treatment" on page 1955, disclose the steps of advancing an intravascular member (the stent) into a blood vessel adjacent to a blood vessel defect (the aneurysm) and positioning an embolus member (the Guglielmi detachable platinum coils) within the vessel wall defect such that the intravascular member retains the embolus member within the vessel wall defect. Massoud et al. fail to disclose that the stent is in the form of an elongate strand member in the collapsed configuration. However, Balko et al. teach that a stent should be so configured (figures 6-8) with the apparent advantage of enabling the narrow elongate strand 24 or 24a along with the narrow sheath 36 to be easily passed through the narrow vasculature. So forming

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the Massoud et al. stent so that it too would enjoy this advantage would have been obvious. Although Balko et al. fail to disclose using first, second and third catheters to deploy the stent, Massoud et al., in the paragraph labeled "Aneurysm Treatment" on page 1955, teach that a first catheter (the angiographic sheath), a second catheter (the guiding catheter) and a third catheter (the microcatheter) should be used to deploy a[✓] implantable device (the platinum coils) within a blood vessel. This arrangement has the apparent advantage of guiding the implantable device through narrow and tortuous blood vessels. Using first, second and third catheters to deploy the Balko et al. stent (incorporated into the Massoud et al. method) in order to obtain this advantage would have been obvious. As to claim 113, Massoud et al. teach advancing the embolus delivery catheter through the intravascular member into the vessel wall defect, as indicated by the phrase "through the mesh of the stent into the aneurysm" near the middle of the paragraph under the heading "Aneurysm Treatment" on page 1955.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Thaler whose telephone number is (703) 308-2981. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Milano can be reached on (703)308-2496. The fax phone numbers for the

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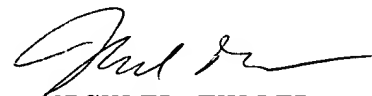
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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3590 for regular communications and (703)305-3590 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0858.

mht
December 12, 2002



MICHAEL THALER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3731